

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

Vol. XXV, No. 51

FRIDAY, December 18, 1959

United States 1 year \$3.00; 2 years \$5.00; 3 years \$7.00
Canada and foreign 1 year \$3.50; 2 years \$6.00; 3 years \$8.50

A Story for Young and Old

A Christmas Miracle

Told by Aunt Theresa of Radio WMBI

"I DON'T love God, and I don't believe in Jesus," screamed Mariana. She got no further in her screaming, for the hand of Nicholas, her brother, was clamped over her mouth.

"Shame on you, Mariana! That made a big black spot on your heart. You didn't mean it, did you? Tell Jesus you're sorry."

"I can't, Nicholas, 'cause I'm not sorry—I'm hungry; I want something to eat." Big tears rolled down her cheeks. Mariana was always cold and always hungry. Usually she lay quietly in the little cave home in the side of the mountain or hung patiently on to Nicholas' hand as they trudged into town to the soup kitchen to get a small portion of thin soup and a chunk of bread. This was their daily portion. It was never enough to stop the gnawing in their stomachs.

Nicholas sat down on the dirt floor besides Mariana. He put her head in his lap and ran his hand through her matted hair. "How terribly ragged her clothes are—how filthy dirty she is!" he thought. Mariana had only one dress and an old hand-me-down coat—only the river in which to wash her hands and her face. It was much too cold to take a bath. No wonder the poor little girl was dirty!

Mariana loved the touch of Nicholas' hand on her head. He was such a good brother. She looked up at him. "Nicholas, please tell me a story."

"Don't you want the story, Mariana?" Nicholas feared that something terrible had happened in the heart of his little sister. He silently prayed that she would say "Yes." Mariana hesitated for a moment and then said, "Yes, Nicholas, tell me the story." So Nicholas began:

"Once there was a mother and father and two children. They lived in a nice, warm house. They had good things to eat every day."

Mariana always smiled at this part of the story and said, "That was our family, wasn't it, Nicholas?"

"Yes, Mariana. This mother and father and these two children went to a big, beautiful church. There was an altar filled with lighted candles. There was a priest with gorgeous robes. They heard lovely music and words which they couldn't understand. They went to church because it was their duty. When their duty was done they went back to their home."

"One day wicked men came and set fire to their home. The mother, father, and the two children had to gather up whatever they could in a hurry and run. They fled through villages and into the mountains. At night they slept wherever they could find a place to lie down. They got food from kind people who shared with them what little they could spare."

"One day the father and the boy were out in the woods, trying to find something to eat. The bad men came again. They shot the father. Somehow, the boy managed to drag him home."

"And you weren't nearly as big as Father either, were you, Nicholas?"

"You mustn't interrupt, Mariana."

"But it's our story, Nicholas," insisted the girl.

"Yes, it's our story—our very own, Sister."

"Well, the father was very badly wounded. The mother and children didn't know what to do."

There was no doctor, no nurse, no hospital to call. They had never learned to trust God or to really pray in that big, beautiful church, so they were very sad. They felt helpless and alone, until the man came, Mariana.

"He was tall and blond. He had blue eyes, not dark eyes like our people. He came all the way from America, a wonderful country far across the big sea. He had been in England, Holland, Germany, and many other places. But now he had come to tell the people of our own Greece about the Lord Jesus Christ. This stranger helped bandage the father's wound's; and when the fever burned in the father's body, when he tossed and moaned, the man helped the mother care for him. The American was so good—so kind. He said he had been a student in a big

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Christmas

No sheep in the folds,
No Star in the west,
No babe lulled to sleep
On His young mother's breast.
But sheep of God's flock
Straying far from His love,
And a glorified Man
Interceding above.

No gold and no myrrh,
No Sweet frankincense,
But the gift of the heart
When the sinner repents.
No music on earth
From the angelic bands;
But the praise and prayer
Of the saved of all lands.

Apart from the Christ—
No joy at His birth,
Though merry and gay
All the feasting on earth;
The candles burn out,
And the feasting is done,
But the Glory of heaven
Shines forth in God's Son.

Betty Scott Stam
Yang Chow, China, 1931

Let Us Rejoice in Our Blessed

Unfading Inheritance

By the late Dr. Wm. Pettingill

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."—I Pet. 1:3-5.

This beatitude of Peter, consisting of but a single sentence though occupying three verses, is full of beauty, and full also of vitally important teaching.

The safety of the saved is its theme. Here the believers, the born-again ones, are seen as inheritors, inheritors by reason of the fact—and of necessity growing out of the fact—that they are born again. They inherit because they are God's children, begotten of Him. As Romans 8:17 puts it, being children, they are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

It is a truly precious relation-

ship, and it is not a temporary one. The life we have received from our Father is eternal life, everlasting life, endless life.

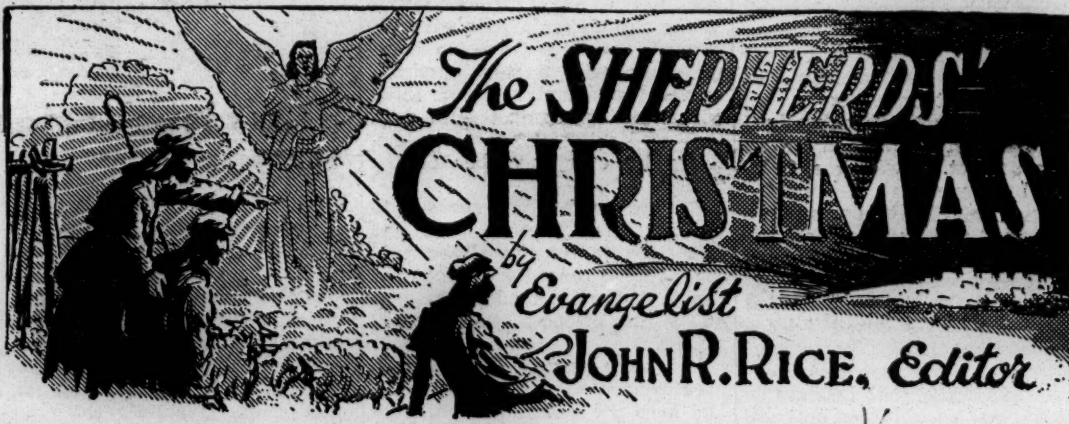
The eternal, everlasting, endless character of this relationship is shown here in a sevenfold way: (1) It is according to God's mercy; (2) it is linked with the resurrection of Christ; (3) it is incorruptible; (4) it is undefiled; (5) it fadeth not away; (6) it is reserved for us; and (7) we are preserved for it.

1. God's Children Are Eternal-Safe Because Their Salvation Is According to Mercy

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us." Salvation is by grace. Whenever I am asked whether a saved man can get lost, I always answer that it depends upon whether he got saved by grace. I know of no other way of salvation than by grace, that is, by gift. No man earns his salvation, no man is saved because he deserves it, no man is saved by his own good works; but, in response to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour, God bestows upon the believer the priceless boon of salvation.

How then can it be supposed that the salvation thus bestowed is bestowed only upon condition that the saved man must deserve to keep it, or, failing to do so, he must forfeit it? As a matter of fact, no one deserves either to get saved or to keep saved. If anyone is to be saved or kept saved, it must be according to mercy; it must be by grace. "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace" (Rom. 4:16); "and if by grace, then is it no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace; otherwise work is no more work" (Rom. 11:6). It was "after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared," that "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:4, 5). "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9).

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"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."—Luke 2:8-20.

The Christmas story so takes hold on my heart that each year I want to preach about it all the following January! I want to preach about the wise men, about the believing virgin, about faithful Joseph, about the prophecies fulfilled in Christ's coming, about the annunciation, about there being no room in the inn, and about the stable birth and the manger bed. Who could ever get done preaching about the Christmas story! But in this message let us turn aside and enjoy the first Christmas with the shepherds watching their flocks in the fields that cool spring night when the angel of the Lord brought to them the message of the Saviour! Let us hear the message and follow them as they went to see for themselves the Baby Jesus and went away with great joy!

I. The Shepherds

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."—Luke 2:8.

Things went their humdrum round at Rome, the center of the world. In Caesar's palace the entertainment, the feasting, the politics continued and no one knew that God had a Son born, and man a Saviour! That night the head of Caesar rested as uneasily as ever rests the head that wears a crown. The Roman Senate never saw an angel come and never heard a whisper of the "Glory to God in the highest" chorus. They never dreamed in Rome that the King of the Jews was born who will one day rule the whole world.

In the King's palace at Jerusalem the murderous Herod had no

thought that only six miles away one was born who will one day make Jerusalem "the joy of the whole earth" and there will establish His reign forever on David's throne! The Sanhedrin met as usual, and the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees, quarreled about the details of the ceremonial law. None of them had an inkling that the Christ, the Messiah so long promised, had been born. God did not think it worthwhile to tell the story of the Saviour's birth in the palaces, or universities, or among the rich and mighty of the world. When Jesus was born, the angel of the Lord left Heaven, sought out a group of humble shepherds and told them the story that should have electrified the world!

Not until the wise men from the East came seeking "The King of the Jews" and inquired of Herod and he of the scribes, did the "powers that be," in Jerusalem hear that a Saviour had been born!

A Saviour for the lowly, the ignorant and the poor! This, surely, is the meaning of this Scripture.

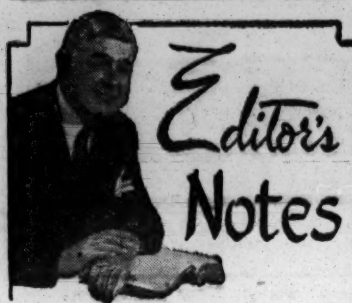
The rich have more money to spend for Christmas and think they can bring happiness to their loved ones by giving diamonds or automobiles or other costly and beautiful gifts. But these things do not make Christmas. What makes Christmas is to have the Saviour. And, thank God, the poor may have Him as readily as the rich! The ignorant, the unlearned, the unsophisticated, the "lower strata of society"—the Saviour's birth was for such as these.

I remember a Christmas when we were very poor at Christmas-time, during my boyhood in west Texas. My father was deeply dis-

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Dr. William L. Pettingill



It is now the fifth day of my stay near Chattanooga with the Tennessee Temple Schools and Highland Park Baptist Church. In a few moments I will be going to the chapel service where I will speak to some nine hundred in the student body and faculty, then to some hundreds of others—wives and church folk. Then this afternoon I speak at a business place to all the employees at 2:30. Then tonight, back at the church again, I will speak on "The Power Of Pentecost."

Saved From Modernism Through THE SWORD

It is very impressive to find the influence THE SWORD OF THE LORD has had on these hundreds of ministerial students and visiting ministers. Last night I spoke in Duncan Park Chapel. It was crowded to the doors. Many came to tell of blessings they had received through THE SWORD OF THE LORD and through my books. Three preachers out of the group, including the pastor, told how THE SWORD OF THE LORD had saved them from modernism. Perhaps a dozen or fifteen came to say that THE SWORD OF THE LORD caused them to come to Tennessee Temple Schools, and there are dozens of others here, doubtless, influenced by THE SWORD OF THE LORD to come to this fundamental Christian school. It is a great comfort to know that God, in loving mercy, has used the continual pounding on the authority of the Word of God, on the fundamentals of the faith, on soul winning.

One woman came half laughing, half crying to tell how she had read my book *The Soul-Winner's Fire*, and gone out with fear and trembling to win her first soul. A young minister told how he sat nine hours in a chair reading my book, *The Second Coming of Christ in Daniel*, I believe, and getting settled forever the great fundamentals about the course of this age, the second coming of Christ, the rapture and the millennial kingdom.

How a Deacon Got Saved

Yesterday morning I spoke in an annual service at the Union City Rescue Mission in Chattanooga. God was good; we had people saved and the house was crowded. The mission superintendent, Brother Richardson, told how, at Evansville Rescue Mission, he had heard me speak and said

that when I had declared from the pulpit, looking directly at him, "When a man gets to be a Christian, he ought to smell like a Christian," he was cut to the heart and was compelled to leave off his cigarettes.

Then Brother Richardson told me privately an amazing story. A salesman from Atlanta came to him here in Chattanooga at the mission and showed him a worn copy of my little booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" "I read that all night last night in my hotel room, without going to bed," he said. "Next Sunday I am to be ordained a deacon in my church in Atlanta and I am not even saved. I dare not tell my pastor I am not saved and I must be saved today. I am already ready; I want you to pray with me." So they went into the mission office and knelt to pray and there the man, officially and before Brother Richardson, claimed the Saviour! Isn't that a strange and lovely story?

Monday night of this week I preached on "The Fall and Restoration of a Preacher," and, going among the crowd, I was moved to ask a certain man, "Are you saved?" He said he was. But I insisted, "Have you really trusted Christ as your own Saviour?" He answered, "Yes, I have!" Then his wife came to me to tell me how her husband had gone into the bedroom alone and read my booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and there had taken Christ as his Saviour.

Well, let us go on sowing the gospel seeds and "let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

Every Pastor, Every Church Should Have a Supply of This Soul-Winning Booklet

At the Union Rescue Mission Brother Richardson showed me his supply of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" given out day after day to the men who come in great numbers to the mission. At a church recently I saw a tract rack with a supply of the booklet. It was free, to be taken by any sinner who wanted a copy or any Christian who wanted to pass a copy on to an unsaved one. In a bus station I saw a tract rack which was kept supplied with the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" by a group of Christian businessmen.

It seems to me that every fundamental church that believes in soul winning should keep on hand a supply of this little booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" It is so simple, so full of Scripture. It has been so blessed of God. It is right to the point, presses for decision. It actually gets people saved, by God's loving mercy, as it has done with thousands of people who have reported their salvation to us. You may have this booklet at only \$2.00 a hundred. (Please enclose 15c for postage

and packing.) And address THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

Many a timid Christian who wants to win souls could begin this simple, easy way. Get your friends, your loved ones to promise to read this little booklet as you put it in their hands. Show them the decision form on page 23 and tell them that tomorrow you hope they can tell you they have signed this decision. Then ask them about it the next day or the same day. Sunday School teachers should see that every pupil has a copy so that those who are saved may have assurance and may know how to deal with others, and so that those who are unsaved may be saved.

That All-Church Deal: Don't Miss It!

We hope that hundreds of pastors and churches will take up the opportunity of sending THE SWORD OF THE LORD to every resident family in the church. For every church who will undertake that, or every group within the church who will undertake that, we offer subscriptions at \$2.00 a year. They may be paid, if you like, at 50c per quarter. Thus at very moderate expense you can feed your people on the spiritual food that will transform lives, will make them live cleaner lives, make them love the Bible better, make them more generous in giving and make many of them into real soul winners. It will save them from being led astray by false cults and modernism. It will make them better Christians.

Thousands of churches send the denominational paper to their members, papers which never have a sermon, which never lead to revival, never win a soul. But for less than you could have a very ordinary speaker for a week, you can have THE SWORD OF THE LORD sent to every resident family in the church for a year with 150 sermons, with answers to Bible questions, with a solid emphasis on the fundamentals of the faith, with warnings against false cults and modernism. There is something for every member of the family.

Remember that you can add to the list from time to time and this subscription can all be paid for at one time for a year, or payment can be made quarterly, at the rate of 50c a quarter, \$2.00 a year.

Let some fervent Christian in each church take this matter up and help the pastor and the deacons to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to every resident family in the church.

Prayer Is the Way Out for All of Us!

We ask our friends to pray for the ministry of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Think of what God can do through the messages, the greatest sermons written in this generation, published in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, along with the greatest sermons of the past. If God breathes upon THE SWORD and gives us supernatural wisdom, and gives Holy Spirit power to the warning and teaching and pleading in THE SWORD, think of what blessings will result!

And our radio broadcast—whether you can hear each Sunday or not the "Voice of Revival," you can pray and I beg now that many of you will put this poor editor and the "Voice of Revival" broadcast on your program to pray for us every day. If we wait on God as we should surely a mighty moving of God's Spirit will affect the millions of hearers to the "Voice of Revival" broadcast. People will listen in, will be moved and blessed and changed, some will be saved, backsliders will be revived. The worldly will be convicted. Those who are drifting along the modern way of unbelief and doubt will grow in faith and in solid convictions. Please pray!

We are praying that all the radio expenses may be paid up-to-date by January 1. And God, who has so wonderfully blessed through the years, surely will help us now. If God impresses you to send a Christmas offering to the "Voice of Revival" broadcast to help us pay these heavy radio broadcast fees, I shall be deeply grateful. Of course, this work is a nonprofit work recognized by the Federal Government, and your

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Christmas Greetings

We here in The Sword of the Lord office send heartiest Christmas greetings to every reader of this paper. We have tried to be a blessing to you this past year. With much labor and prayer, and with some sacrifice, we have kept the paper coming week after week. We feel that you are our friends, our brothers and sisters in Christ. How we wish that we could give to you something that would show our love. So we pray—

... that God's great Christmas Gift, Jesus Christ our Saviour, may be yours this Christmas; that you may be happy in Him. Other gifts do not matter, for He is the Gift of all gifts. Be happy in Him!

... that you may have the peace which the Holy Spirit of God brings into the heart, peace with God and the peace of God.

... that you may believe in Him with the same simple faith that the shepherds had when they left their flocks and went to see the baby Jesus in the manger.

... that you may surrender as wholly to Him as did the wise men from the East when they opened their treasures and gave to Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh—gold as tribute to a King, frankincense as prayer and praise to God, and myrrh as the anointing spice for a suffering and wounded and dying Saviour.

May God give you every rich blessing in this happy season, according to His will and for His glory, and may the next year be the best you have ever had in the will of God.

In Christian love, yours,

John R. Rice and
Sword Foundation Staff

INCIDENTS

and

Illustrations

By
Evangelist Robert L. Sumner
Contributing Editor

Black, White ... or Gray?

A Los Angeles police captain, head of that city's juvenile bureau, recently charged that the ever-increasing rise in juvenile and adult crime is merely the manifestation of "a steady breakdown in moral standards" which the American public is undergoing. He said that his studies show this moral and ethical collapse to be nationwide in scope and "to a large extent supported by the country's judges."

Captain G. J. Glavas lamented: "There is no such thing as right and wrong—instead there is a series of grays. People seem to believe that to steal money from a large corporation, while not completely justified, should not be treated as seriously—as to take money from the corner beggar. They seem to think probation is fair for the man who takes from the man or company who has a lot of money, but to take from the poor man is much more serious."

As illustrative of his "series of grays" charge, Glavas said, "Examples of this breakdown into what is right and wrong can be seen every day in the letters to the editor columns of the newspapers. The recent television quiz scandals have brought hundreds of letters, not criticizing the cheating but trying to justify it in the writer's mind." He enlarged on his accusation of judicial laxity by saying, "The courts are hanging their hats of legal formalities that enable them to justify conduct of those who violate old time moral standards."

Glavas recommended a reform starting "with the very top leaders of the nation returning to high moral standards," and added, "we must return to the home and do away with TV."

However, Captain Glavas frankly admitted he did not know how to bring about this eventual return to a right-and-wrong system of morals. Actually, there is just one hope for America along this line and that consists of a Heavenly, Holy Ghost revival with its accompanying moral revolutions

and reforms. The ordinary gathering of Christians "playing church" on Sunday morning simply will not do the job. It is much, much too big for that! Jehovah's advice to His people in the Old Testament era is most timely today: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12).

Smoking and Aging

Here is something else for cigarette smokers to worry about: Dr. F. Marrott Sinex, a Boston University biochemist, revealed that a chemical in cigarette smoke, acetaldehyde, may make smokers age faster and die sooner. The scientist said that this chemical "makes animal tendons stiffen in a process like tanning shoe leather."

Dr. Sinex exposed tendons from kangaroo tails and the necks of cattle to the acetaldehyde from cigarette smoke and noted the changes. He saw the possibility that this chemical could stiffen and "tan" vital human tissues, "including lungs, arteries, and other body materials."

Acetaldehyde is also found in beverage alcohol but while the drinker gets more of it than the smoker, in drinking it is first changed in the liver and thereby presumably would not have the aging and tanning effects it does in vapor form from cigarettes.

TV Tragedy

Chalk up several more triumphs for "Kid Killer," the old TV set in the parlor. Out in San Pedro, California, the other day three brothers, aged 7, 9 and 12, got into an argument about which TV "show" to watch. The youngest lad went to the closet and brought back his dad's modified carbine rifle, pointed it at his brothers wrestling on the floor, then squeezed the trigger. The 9-year-old was killed instantly and the 12-year-old slightly wounded with the same single shot. The sobbing killer told police, "I didn't mean to ... I didn't mean to."

In Kirkwood, Missouri, a 23-year-old woman was stabbed five times by her 14-year-old brother "in a dispute over which television program they would watch." The couple was at home alone watching TV when the sister decided to switch to another channel. The brother followed with a "switch" of his own—a switchblade knife—stabbing her repeatedly in the back when she bent over to turn the dial.

On and on it goes! The Minister
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AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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Subscription rates: \$3.00 per year, \$5.00 for two years, \$7.00 for three years; Canada and foreign countries \$3.50 per year, \$6.00 for two years, \$8.50 for three years.

Published every Friday of each week.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Newton, Kansas, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Postmasters: Please send Form 3579 to The Sword of the Lord, 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

Please send all correspondence and address changes to: The Sword of the Lord Editorial and Executive office at 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois. Office of Publication: 131 West 6th St., Newton, Kansas.

Blessed Soul-Winning Conference at Durham

By Evangelist Walt Handford, Assistant Editor

November 1-6 we held a Sword Conference on Revival and Soul Winning with twenty churches of seven denominations participating, in Durham, North Carolina. Rev. Walter Maurer is chairman of the Conservative Minister's Fellowship which sponsored the conference, and Rev. Ronald Creech, pastor of the Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church, was host pastor. Rev. Paul Raker of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, worked out the arrangements with the local pastors.

In these six short days we had one of the most blessed conferences as far as preachers' lives changed that I have seen. On one morning there were forty-two preachers present and I suppose over the week there were at least one hundred preachers, who attended at least one of the services of the conference.

Dr. John R. Rice and Jack Hyles, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, were the principal speakers. (Evangelist Handford spoke four times with great blessing. Editor) Music was under the direction of Bud Lyles of the "Voice of Revival" radio broadcast.

The conference was a wonderful combination of earnest Bible teaching on Christian living and enthusiastic instruction in soul winning. On Tuesday afternoon Jack Hyles taught a two-hour clinic on exactly how to win a soul to Christ. Those who attended were greatly blessed and many said they had never heard anything so practical. Then on Wednesday and Thursday a number of teams went out two by two from house to house and to the bus station and parks doing personal soul winning.

There were some truly miraculous conversions in the visitation soul winning. Two ladies were won while underneath the hair driers in a beauty parlor. One girl for whom we had prayed especially by name was won to Christ in the bus station by one of the soul winners there. Mrs. Rice and I had the privilege of winning a young lady to Christ on a city bus which the Lord delayed at a railroad crossing long enough to get her saved. My own heart was so greatly stirred about the matter of soul winning that on the plane coming to Chicago I had the joy of leading a Catholic air line stewardess to Christ.

Probably the greatest thing done during the conference was in getting preachers stirred up to do the job of soul winning and visitation work. Several testified that during the conference they did their first house-to-house visitation in their ministry. A number testified to new power in soul winning which they had never before had.

Ronald Creech, pastor of the Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church, wrote Dr. Rice after the conference to tell us of blessings he received. Here is part of his letter:

"This conference meant more to me than any single thing in a long, long time.

"Sunday morning I just got up and confessed my sins and named them (I have held grudges; I've feared man; I've been powerless in preaching; I've been lazy; I've been a hypocrite; I've not been a soul winner; I've not loved you as I should). When I finished preaching to myself, I had the deacons come and pray for me at the altar.

"As I was getting ready to start preaching to them, one by one, folks started rising to confess their sins against one another. It was the most glorious time I have ever had, I think. There must have been 150 or 200 who knelt at the altar and around the front and in the aisles to confess sin and rededicate themselves to Almighty God.

"At the close we had three saved, eight rededications, one backslider restored to fellowship with God, one answered a call to preach and two made public professions of the decisions they had

made previously. One of them was Mary, the girl at the bus station, remember? Another one was interesting. Do you remember that you said in one of your sermons that God would give us people? Well, Saturday night before I left the church, one of our ladies brought one of her friends by to see me about a problem in her life. I talked to her about her eternal destiny and she was saved in the office and was one of the public professions. I feel now that I am really living.

"The other pastors are really having revival, too. Praise God!"

Here is part of another letter, from Rev. Billy Morris, pastor of the Sherron Acres Free Will Baptist Church:

"Remember, we were out together Thursday afternoon on visitation. You mentioned that you were going to ask the Lord to help me in the business of soul winning. I wanted to let you know how He has helped since Friday.

"On Saturday night I went out and led two young couples to Christ. They all came to church Sunday and made public professions. It really did thrill me and my church . . .

"That night (Monday) I came on to church to teach a study and started to perk up again. After the study, I went by to see another couple and they were saved. Said they would be here Sunday to walk the aisle if he doesn't have to work.

"Yesterday (Tuesday afternoon) I went out again to see another young couple, and they got saved and promised to be here Sunday to make it public. That makes eight since Saturday, and I am glad. Please pray that my courage fail not.

"Walt, I preached Sunday morning with the most wonderful abandonment of self that I have known, almost ever. My folk seemed real excited about it all."

This is the second year that the pastors in Durham have held a Sword conference. How we appreciate Bible-believing pastors who are willing to get together to sponsor such a conference on revival and soul winning. Perhaps you could with several other Bible-believing pastors in your immediate area get together to sponsor such a conference in your community. If you are interested, please write and let me know the details. We would need to know how many pastors could be counted on to co-operate in sponsoring such a meeting. In the long run such a conference might do as much good as a city-wide revival in stirring the people in your local churches to win souls to Christ and be truly evangelistic.

Incidents and Illustrations

(Continued from page 2)

of Posts and Telegraphs in South Africa, A. A. Hertzog, declared recently that South Africa would not have TV because of its potential "destructive effects on children and the less developed races." In an interview published by *Die Vaderland*, the Afrikaans-language newspaper, Hertzog compared television with movies and said, "In the cinema parents are able to pick films for their children. This is impossible with TV. The effect of wrong pictures on children and less developed races can be destructive."

Methinks the gentleman has a point . . . a very strong point!

Conscience Money

Another windfall in conscience money landed in Uncle Sam's lap the other day when Treasury Department officials received a Chicago postmarked envelope containing twenty-two \$100 bills and thirty-six bills of \$50 denomination. The accompanying anonymous note merely said: "Gentle-

What to Do With Christmas Gift Money

In a few days you will be unwrapping Christmas packages, and you will be experiencing the joy of receiving and being remembered by those you love. Some of your gifts will be just what you wanted; some will be a disappointment! Many receive gifts of money at Christmas, and you will wonder just how the money should be used. If you keep in mind, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus," you will not be willing to use that money for foolish, worldly things, things that will perish with the using. You will want to invest some of it for God. I say "invest" it, because God always repays with much more than we give.

Some of you have been writing to say you wished you could give many, many subscriptions to *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, but you have not been able to do it. Now, with the gift money, you will be able to realize that wish and can send *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* as a gift to some who need its message. If you will send 10 or more you may have them for \$2.00 a year each. Why not make out the list now and ask the Lord to provide you with enough money to carry out your wishes? "Freely ye have received; freely give."

Good News!

Here is delightful news for all the Sword puzzle fans: Another full year's series is being prepared and the puzzle page will continue to be a regular feature in *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* throughout the coming year. This popular phase of our ministry has done immeasurable good in addition to providing hours of enjoyment for our readers.

We are happy to announce also that we will continue our policy of giving a free booklet to all who send in the puzzles correctly filled in within the prescribed rule limits. As heretofore, we gave thousands of dollars' worth of free literature to our puzzle fans last year, and we will do the same, the Lord willing, in 1960.

We also plan to give special awards again next year. This past year we gave a lovely Scofield Bible to all who correctly completed 48 puzzles according to the rules, and a copy of *Man Sent From God* for those who did so with 40 puzzles. We will be making an announcement shortly as to what special features we will offer during 1960.

So . . . sharpen up your pencils and your wits: another full year of puzzle blessing is just ahead.

men, the enclosed sum is due to our government for back taxes."

Nine cents postage was due on the letter so Sam's net take was \$3,999.91.

Apparently someone decided, and rightly so, that peace of mind is worth much more than four thousand dollars. However, real peace of mind comes only through a right relationship with Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 expresses it, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 4:7 offers "the peace of God" only "through Christ Jesus" and Isaiah 26:3 promises "perfect peace" only to those "whose mind is stayed" on Him, then defining that as "he trusteth in thee."

Peace cannot be bought; it is given through faith in Christ!

Evangelist Sumner can be seen and heard:

December 26:
Christian Youthrama
Palm Beach County-Wide Evangelistic Rally
Palm Beach High School Auditorium
Hibiscus Street & Georgia Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida

December 27-January 10:
Burton Avenue Baptist Church
800 Burton Avenue
Waterloo, Iowa

Church Takes Stand for THE SWORD

In a letter of November 6, the pastor, deacons, and officers of the Central Baptist Church, Jenkins, Kentucky, send along their signed endorsement of and encouragement for *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. We are so happy at this kindly expression of confidence and approval that we publish it here along with grateful thanks.

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"We the undersigned, pastor, deacons, and officers of the Central Baptist Church of Jenkins, Kentucky, wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for your uncompromising stand for the Word of God. We give thanks unto God for giving unto you the ability, the love, devotion, and the anointing to be a voice of God crying out in these days of modernism.

"We are not surprised when we read in *THE SWORD* the many letters condemning your position concerning inspiration of the Scriptures and separation from infidels and those who deny the fundamentals of the Bible. For the Bible teaches that whosoever dares to stand true for the dear Lord shall suffer scandalous rebuke from the Devil and his followers.

"Most of our members are subscribers to *THE SWORD*. We think

that it is the best religious paper in America today.

"Enclosed find an offering to help wherever needed, and in closing we want to say we are behind you all the way and you can rest assured we will carry your name before the dear Lord in prayer.

"Yours in the loving Saviour's name,

"Elnar C. Hughes, pastor
"James C. Elswick, Sunday School Superintendent
"Mrs. James C. Elswick, Secretary
"Mrs. Ernest McCarter, Sunday School Teacher
"Hugh Ellis, Minister
"Baron W. Yonts, Treasurer
"George A. Fleming
"Mrs. George Bevins, Sunday School Teacher
"George W. Bevins, Sunday School Teacher
"Mrs. B. W. Yonts, Sunday School Teacher"

It is a great encouragement that in the midst of much abuse and misrepresentation, there are still those who hold us up in prayer and who believe it is worthwhile to defend the faith and to press for holy living and soul winning, as *THE SWORD* does.

Kids Korner

By Aunt Mary

Dear Nieces and Nephews,

In your home as well as mine the children are excited about Christmas. Probably at your home too the Christmas tree is in its place in the living room and decorated with all the imagination possible with glitter and sparkle, or perhaps in the old-fashioned way with strings of popcorn and cranberries, or paper chains. It was fun to do, wasn't it?

And at our house for days the air has been smelling sweet of Christmas cookies, fat ginger ones cut to rounds or animals, pressed ones forming camels and stars and Christmas trees.

Christmas music has filled our house. Even the little ones have sung, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Away in a Manger," and "Little Baby, Little Jesus, I Love You." And the bigger girls with their choir have learned, "The Birthday of a King" and "O Holy Night."

And, since our little boys are much like you, for weeks I have heard, "Mommy, I want this or that for Christmas!"

The days are joyous ones to all of us as we celebrate Christmas, but some don't remember that it is Jesus' birthday and that He is to be honored. While we think of gifts, and special foods, candy canes, cookies and fruitcakes, let us first hold in our minds the memory of how Jesus came to earth, a little baby, to grow up to die for our sins. Jesus left Heaven so that we could go to Heaven. As you read the Christmas story

in Luke, chapter two, perhaps you will want to ask the Lord Jesus to come into your heart and save you. Wouldn't that be a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas? If you haven't yet trusted Jesus, but will ask Him and trust Him to save you today, please write me and let me know about it.

Now turn to the front page of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* for your story where all can read, "A Christmas Miracle."

A Merry Christmas and much love from
Your Aunt Mary.

A Christmas Suggestion

Is there still someone for whom you have no Christmas gift, some relative neglected in the shopping? It may be that work or sickness has prevented buying the gift you intended to give.

Let me suggest that you simply send them a nice Christmas card and inside write:

"This certifies that I am sending you with my love a year's subscription to *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. Let each copy remind you of my best wishes and fervent love through 1960."

Then send their complete name and address with \$3 for the subscription and through the entire year they will receive America's foremost evangelistic weekly. Thousands say it is the best Christmas gift they ever received.

Address, *Sword of the Lord*, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



The right road always leads out at the right place. This is what we teach the young people who attend Bob Jones University. No person can come out at the right place by traveling the wrong road. Let me emphasize the fact that Bob Jones University has as high academic standards as any institution in America. We emphasize the highest type culture. We give instruction in music, speech, and art without additional cost above the regular academic tuition. These things are important, but more important still is to help young people know in this day what really is the right thing to do and to tell them how by the grace of God

they can do the right thing.

If you are interested in an institution with high academic standards—an institution with a strong, cultural emphasis but an institution that puts God and the Bible first—then you can have a part in the work Bob Jones is doing by praying daily and earnestly for us and by turning the right kind of young people to the school and by investing some of the Lord's money in the work here. Won't you let us hear from you? Please do. Thank you, and God bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
GREENVILLE, S. C.
(Advertisement)

Our Unfading Inheritance

(Continued from page 1)

2. God's Children Are Eternally Safe Because Their Salvation Is Linked With the Resurrection of Christ

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Peter, who by the Spirit wrote these words, was well able to enter into the fullness of their meaning, for he had known the time when all hope had gone from him and left him in despair. His Lord, whom he had loved, was dead! And Peter, despite his love for his Lord, had shamefully denied Him. Repentance had come, but that repentance had come too late: the Lord, whom he, despite his base denial of him, had truly loved, was dead. All was lost, and all hope was gone. They had "trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel" (Luke 24:21). But now all that was past, for the Lord Jesus was dead.

Imagine, if you can, what it meant to this man Peter, to see the same Lord Jesus alive again! From the open and empty tomb there came the message to "tell his disciples, and Peter!" See Peter running, with John, to the place where that precious body had been laid. They tell us that it was because John was the younger of the two men that he got to the tomb first; I do not know, but we may well believe that, whatever it may have been that retarded Peter's progress, he got there as soon as he could. He found an empty tomb, but as yet he saw not the Lord; yet it was only a short time afterward on that blessed day that everyone among the Christians was saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon."

Simon Peter's despair disappeared with that resurrection of his Lord. He was begotten again unto a lively hope. And we also, not less than he. But for the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we should be yet in our sins, and of all men most miserable. He who "was delivered for our offences . . . was raised again for our justification."

3. God's Children Are Eternally Safe Because Their Inheritance Is Incorruptible

There appeared in the newspapers the account of a man who had inherited an old family mansion. He was glad of the news of his supposed good fortune until he looked the property over and found that the house was in such a state of decay as to render it worthless. It had originally been a perfectly good house, made of good materials, and built by skillful workmen; but the tooth of time had been at work, and there was nothing left that was salvageable; its new possessor was poorer with the property than he had been without it.

So it goes with the riches of this world; there is nothing here that is incorruptible. The Lord Jesus Christ, the adorable Son of God, hath brought life and incorruptibility to light. The foul breath of decay can never work its ravages with any of the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him; the taint of corruption can never reach the glorious inheritance of the children of God. Even their bodies shall one day be transfigured into the likeness of their Lord's glorified body, the dead being raised incorruptible, and the living, with the dead, being "changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump." And not only so, but the creation itself, now groaning and travailling in pain together, "shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (I Cor. 15:51-58; Rom. 8:21).

4. God's Children Are Eternally Safe Because Their Inheritance Is Undefined

What would you do if you fell heir to a large inheritance of "tainted money"? Such things have happened, and are happening. Men and women die daily who leave behind them accumulations of money to which they have no

moral right. In some cases it is kept back by fraud from the laborers who have justly earned it; sometimes it is stolen by cunning or oppression in the world of commerce; sometimes it is acquired in the wicked traffic in liquor, sometimes it is won by cheating in the great gambling schemes of Wall Street, and sometimes it is accumulated by catering to lust and uncleanness. What would you do with it? What ought to be done with it? Return it to its rightful owners if possible, but that is not always possible. I do not pretend to be able to answer the question I raise. But I am glad that our heavenly inheritance is undefiled. The one who handed it down to us did not obtain it by shedding the blood of others; nay, rather, it was by the shedding of His own blood.

The great primary element in the Gospel of our salvation is righteousness. Not grace, but righteousness. It was grace that provided it, I grant you, but the thing provided is righteousness, and it is righteousness righteously provided. One of the reasons given by Paul for not being ashamed of the Gospel, in Romans 1, is that "therein is revealed the righteousness of God." Not the grace of God, but the righteousness of God. In the great plan of salvation, wrought out in that dreadful transaction on Calvary, grace indeed reigns, but grace reigns "through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:21).

Many there are who suppose that in saving us God acted in mercy and grace at the expense of justice. Let no one go on supposing anything that would bring such a reproach upon the righteous Judge of all the earth. It is the marvel of the Gospel that in it God has found a way to be just and the Justifier of believing sinners. He found a ransom, a righteous ransom. The Lord Jesus Christ, His Eternal Son, willingly offered Himself, through the Eternal Spirit, without spot to God, and as the Lamb of God He took away the sin of the world.

Thus it is that we may rejoice that our inheritance is free from defilement. It is not merely a gracious salvation that is ours; it is a righteous salvation.

Someone has defined the righteousness of the Gospel as "that righteousness which the righteousness of God required Him to require." We may well praise God that the righteous requirement of the righteous God was fully met for us when on the cross "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures," bearing "our sins in his own body on the tree."

"O the love that sought me!
O the blood that bought me!
O the grace that brought me
to the fold!
Wondrous grace that brought me
To the fold!"

5. God's Children Are Eternally Safe Because Their Inheritance Is Unfading

It is an inheritance which is "incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away." Earthly riches take to themselves wings and fly away, and earthly inheritances frequently fade away, sometimes even before the heirs get their hands on them at all. "Labour not to be rich," says the Word of God (Prov. 23:4). "An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed" (Prov. 20:21). "A faithful man shall abound with blessings; but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent" (Prov. 28:20). "Let not the rich man glory in his riches" (Jer. 9:23). "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:19, 20). "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these

things" (I Tim. 6:9-11). "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God" (I Tim. 6:17). "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them" (Ps. 62:10).

"How much did he leave?" asked someone upon hearing of the death of a very rich man. "Why," came the reply, "he left it all."

"To whom did he give it," was asked.

"Give it!" was the reply. "He didn't give it to anyone. He relinquished it."

"But, ah, the blessing of the Lord! The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich. Riches are here that the world can neither give nor take away. The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich indeed, and without it the richest is poor indeed."

It "fadeth not away." Rather, it groweth greater the more closely we approach it, the more closely we examine it. Here are hidden mines of wealth, beyond our dreams when first we came to know the Lord. The gold, and the silver, and the diamonds, and the rubies, the cash, the bonds and stocks, the "securities" of this world are not secure; they fly away; they vanish; we pursue them eagerly, and when we finally grasp them, lo, we find our hands are empty.

"Real estate!" Certain forms of wealth in this world are called "real estate." But there is no real estate outside the realm where neither moth nor rust corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

The Scriptures give abundant assurance of the blessed fact that our inheritance is one that fadeth not away. It is well to examine these, for very many of God's dear children have never seen their security in Christ. The believer's eternal security in Christ rests upon seven pillars in the Scriptures, and "the scripture cannot be broken":

(1) The finished work of Christ (Heb. 9:26; I Pet. 3:18; Acts 13:38, 39; Rom. 8:31-34).

(2) The plain promises of the Word (John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:29, 30; Phil. 1:6).

(3) The present work of Christ as Advocate (I John 2:1; Heb. 7:25).

(4) The believer's union with Christ (I Cor. 12:12, 13; Eph. 5:29, 30).

(5) The terms of the New Covenant (Heb. 8:10-13; 10:16-18).

(6) The faithfulness of God toward His Son (John 17:11; Jude 1, A. S. V.).

(7) The sealing of the Holy Spirit (II Cor. 1:21, 22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30).

6. God's Children Are Eternally Safe Because Their Inheritance Is Reserved in Heaven for Them

It is an inheritance which is "incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." The inheritance is ours, but it is not given to us to keep. It is kept for us in the mighty keeping of our Father. We have the earnest of the inheritance in the person of the Holy Spirit who dwells in our bodies here to see that our needs are supplied, God working in us "both to will and to do of his good pleasure." But the inheritance itself is in the safety deposit vaults of the Bank of Heaven. Nothing can touch it there; of this we are assured. The child of God may say with a full heart, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep my deposit against that day." He may well sing,

"Since I can read my title clear
To mansions in the skies,
I'll bid farewell to every fear,
And wipe my weeping eyes."

7. God's Children Are Eternally Safe Because, While Their Inheritance Is Reserved for Them, They Are Preserved for It

They are "kept by the power of God." There has been much contention in the theological world for and against the doctrine of "the perseverance of the saints." But what the Scriptures teach is the *preservation* of the saints by the *perseverance* of God. He hath begun the good work in us, and He will perform

With the Evangelists

By the Editor

EVANGELIST DON WILSON of Lee Road and Sutton Drive, Route 3, Taylors, South Carolina, held a one-week revival, November 8-15, with the Lauderdale Bible Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Rev. David K. Tirrell, pastor. There were 21 first-time decisions for salvation, 14 rededications, and 1 who joined the church. Mrs. Wilson who travels with her husband was pianist for the meetings. The pastor wholeheartedly recommends Evangelist Wilson as a Spirit-filled preacher of the Gospel and defender of the faith.

EVANGELIST JACK VAN IMPE, 14 Gage Street, Pontiac 16, Michigan, held a revival October 12-18 in the Five Points Community Church of Pontiac, Michigan. Rev. Gordon Lindsay reports that there were 21 decisions for salvation, 14 for restoration and 18 for baptism and church membership over and above the 21 saved. The pastor reports that Brother Van Impe preaches the Word hard and straight and does not evade preaching on sin and its consequences.

EVANGELIST JOE MILLER, Route 1, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, closed a meeting November 8 at the Congregational Mennonite Church of Marietta, Pennsylvania. Rev. John S. Hiestand is pastor of this independent, fundamental church. There were 21 first-time decisions for Christ and many rededications. The meeting was scheduled to close on November 1, but was extended twice because of the good work being done.

EVANGELIST BILL HALL, 129-B White Oak Drive, Greenville, South Carolina, recently held a revival in the Conservative Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri. Rev. Orvie O. Best, pastor, reports that there were 11

it until the day of Jesus Christ. Our reliance is not upon ourselves, but upon Him. Not even upon our continued faith, but upon His continued faithfulness. Though we be faithless, yet He abideth faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. He is faithful that promised. He abideth faithful. Our eyes are not turned within, but we are "looking away unto Jesus, the author, and finisher of our faith." All our springs are in Him and all our dependence upon Him. He will keep our deposit. He will not fail nor be discouraged.

It remains now to guard certain points connected with our theme. Children of God are saints, but they are not yet perfected as to their walk. To the end of the chapter, until their earthly walk shall end, they are sinners saved by grace. Now, it will be asked, what is the consequence of their sinning? If they do not, and cannot, lose their salvation, what do they lose when they fall into sin?

The answer is, they lose in fruitfulness, they lose in fellowship with God. When a child of God falls into sin, his intercourse with God, his communion with his Heavenly Father, is interrupted.

How may this interrupted communion, this precious fellowship, which is truly "with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ," be restored?

The answer is clearly set forth in the first chapter of I John, the ninth verse: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

"But," says someone, "what if the sinning child of God does not confess his sins; what then? And suppose he dies before he has confessed his sins; what then? What becomes of him? Where does he go?"

Again, the Scriptures give a plain and unequivocal answer. A case in point is furnished in the eleventh chapter of I Corinthians. Many of the Corinthian saints were sinning against God in connection with the observance of

souls saved, many restored to fellowship, and several additions to the church. He also reports that Brother Hall and his wife Shirley were a real blessing to the church, and recommends them anywhere that a real revival is desired.

EVANGELIST DENZEL MILLER of 2742 - 4th Avenue, Huntington 2, West Virginia, together with Paul Collins, gospel chalk artist, recently held a revival at the First Baptist Church of Watseka, Illinois. Rev. R. G. Turk, pastor, reports that there were 24 people saved, 16 decisions for soul winning, and 11 rededications during the meeting. He unhesitatingly recommends the ministry of this evangelistic team.

EVANGELIST BUD LYLES, announcer for "Voice of Revival" nationwide broadcast (Editor John R. Rice, director), led the singing in a good meeting with Pastor Claude Childers of the Free Will Baptist Church, Johnston City, Illinois. Brother Childers writes the editor: "It is beyond my ability to find words to express my appreciation to you for making it possible for me to have Brother 'Bud' Lyles with me in my revival services."

"To know Brother 'Bud' is to love him, and to wish that others might know him. God used him in a wonderful way to be a blessing to us here in Johnston City, Illinois, and my life is all the richer because of our fellowship together."

EVANGELIST GLEN SCHUNK, 10 Blythewood Drive, Greenville, South Carolina, held revival services at the West High Baptist Church of Phoenix, Arizona, from November 1-8. The pastor, Wesley A. Darby, reports that there were 20 first-time decisions for Christ, 5 for assurance, 6 for membership, and 5 who came back to the Lord as backsliders. He also reports that the harvest continued after Evangelist Schunk went on to his next engagement.

EVANGELIST DON CHEN-OWETH, P.O. Box 2, Tampa, Florida, reports the following meetings held recently. At a church just outside Roanoke, Vir-

the Lord's Supper: eating and drinking unworthily, that is, in an unworthy manner, not discerning the Lord's body. They refused to judge themselves and compelled the faithful Father to deal with them in chastening, with the result that many of them were made sick, and many of them died. What then? What became of those who died? Where did they go? To Hell? No. To Heaven? Yes. Listen: I read from I Corinthians 11:30-32. "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."

Our condemnation took place once for all at Calvary, when in the person of our Substitute we died to sin. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1, A. S. V.).

What about works? Have they no place in our salvation? Surely, they have a very large place; but their place is not among the *causes* of salvation, but rather among its *effects*. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath afore prepared that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). We are exhorted in the Word of God to "be rich in good works." But let no one suppose that until he is born again he can do any good work which will pass muster in the sight of God and help to save him. Also, let no one suppose that even after he is born again he can by his good works add to his acceptance before God. Our acceptance is in the Beloved (Eph. 1:6). And yet "faith without works is dead," and dead faith never saved anyone; but living, saving faith will show itself by its works. The old epitaph has it right:

"I will not work, my soul to save;
That work my Lord hath done.
But I will work like any slave
For love of God's dear Son."

—The End—

A Christmas Miracle

(Continued from page 1)

Bible school in Chicago in the United States."

"You're going there someday, aren't you Nicholas?"

"Yes, if I possibly can. But the man told us that the great God in heaven loves us and that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us. Jesus was hungry and cold sometimes—like we are—but He didn't complain. He knew that after He had done the things God wanted Him to do, He was going back to heaven to His Father. There it's warm and there everybody has enough to eat.

"This American said that 'the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin.' If we would accept the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, He would save us. Then someday we would go to heaven and live with Him. The father told him he'd been going to the big church in Athens all his life, but he had never heard the story like that before. The father believed in Jesus; so did the mother and the brother.

"It wasn't long before the father died, but he went to live with Jesus. He's nice and warm, and not hungry now. The mother died too, because she didn't have enough to eat. She always shared her little bit of food with the boy and the girl. She's happy now, though, for she's with Jesus. She's all nice and cozy and warm. She isn't hungry at all. Someday the brother is going to live with Jesus too."

"I don't like your story today, Nicholas," cried Mariana.

"And why not, little Sister?"

"Because you told it differently. You said the father and the mother and the brother accepted Jesus. You didn't say anything about the little girl. You didn't say the little girl was going to heaven to live with Jesus and to see her mother and father when she died. You always told it like that before."

"Always before I thought that the little girl had taken Jesus as her Saviour. I always thought until today that the little girl was going to heaven. Now the story is a sad one, because the little girl said she doesn't love God and Jesus."

"You know that the girl is me, and I want to love Jesus; but I can't. I don't think I'll ever love Jesus unless—unless a miracle happens," said Mariana in a pitiful voice.

"A miracle, Sister? What kind of a miracle?"

"Something wonderful, Nicholas—something wonderful like that sweet stuff the American gave us? What was it, Nicholas?"

"It was chocolate, Mariana."

"It was so good. Sometimes I lie awake and imagine I have a big piece of it. Then I eat it very slowly, so that it will last a long, long time. I don't think it would be asking God for too big a miracle to send a piece about half as big as a small handkerchief, do you Nicholas? If God is good, like you say He is; if He sees and loves me, I'm sure He can send a piece of chocolate to me for Christmas."

Mariana's eyes sparkled with anticipation, then they dulled. She said with a hopelessness beyond her years, "But I don't believe He will."

"But if He did, Mariana, then would you believe in Him?"

"If He does, Nicholas, I could believe anything. I could believe everything."

The heart of Nicholas was very sad. He did not know where in all Greece he could get some chocolate for Mariana. She might just as well have asked for a slice of the moon. Even if he found some, he could not buy it. Steal it? He would not. He remembered too well the look in his mother's eyes that day he brought home the loaf of bread he had stolen. She had lifted his chin in her thin hand until his eyes were forced to look into her eyes; then she said in a quiet, solemn voice, "Nicholas, my boy, starve to death if you must, but go to heaven with a clean soul—not as a thief."

He had tried, oh, so hard, since then to keep his soul clean. With the help of the Lord Jesus, he never again took a thing that didn't belong to him. Once, when no one was looking, he'd had a chance to take an orange, but he didn't

do it. Afterward he felt so much better because he hadn't taken it.

Yes, Nicholas' heart was sad. What if his little sister should die? He would never see her again! It said in the Greek New Testament, which the American had given him and which he always carried with him, that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life: no one could come unto the Father but by Him. If Mariana did not believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, died for her sins, then she couldn't go to heaven. What if Mother and Father asked him about her when he saw them in heaven! What would he say? Oh, Mariana had to love Jesus—she just had to. He, Nicholas, could do nothing, but His God could do everything. The American had said so.

Nicholas decided that he would tell God about the whole thing. He looked desolate as he threw himself flat on the ground and buried his head in his arms and prayed, "O God, I know Thou art good, and kind, and loving. Mariana says bad things, but she really doesn't mean them, dear God. She's cold and hungry. Please forgive her. She's only a little girl. She wants some chocolate for Christmas. I don't know how Thou canst do such a big thing, but if Thou wilt get her some chocolate, she'll know Thou art thinking about her and loving her. Please, and thank You. Amen."

The ten days until Christmas dragged slowly. The nights were colder than ever. Nicholas and Mariana found it very hard to keep warm. There was less and less bread. Nicholas always took his chunk and Mariana's and compared them carefully. He always gave her the larger piece. Each day Nicholas went off by himself and prayed to God for the Christmas miracle to happen.

Once some packages arrived

from America. There were not enough to go around, and Nicholas, big boy though he was, cried. He had thought maybe one little package would be for Mariana and him. Sometimes the packages had dried apples or canned meat. How delicious that was! It had been a long, long time since he and Mariana had received such wonderful things. One time they had been given a small bar of soap, with which they had scrubbed themselves all clean and shiny. Nicholas had washed Mariana's hair for her. He tried to curl it on his finger like their mother used to do. My, but his Mariana was pretty when she was clean!

Nicholas awakened early Christmas morning. His legs were cramped and they ached, but he lay still in his old, musty bed of rags. His eyes were closed. He was trying to remember Christmas with Mother, Father, and Mariana in the old home near Athens. He tried to remember the smell of the spicy cakes Mother always made. He remembered the sound of his father's big voice singing Christmas carols. He remembered his mother's telling them how a beautiful ship had sailed into port during the night. It unloaded gifts of all kinds for all the good children of Greece, for the children of Greece believe that their Christmas gifts are brought on the ships of the sea.

Yes, this was the day for which Nicholas and Mariana had been waiting—the day of the miracle. Nicholas called as cheery a "Merry Christmas" to his sister as he could. There was only a weak response. She would not even get up to go to the soup kitchen today. Nicholas wondered as he trudged off alone if the woman who doled out the soup would think that he was lying when he asked for some for Mariana. If he got enough bread for only one, he'd have to give that to Mariana. She was so little, so weak! She must at least have bread on Christmas Day.

As Nicholas drew near the

(Continued on page 6)

The Shepherds' Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

tressed because, without money, he felt he could not give his children the things that would make them happy. After he saw us hang up our stockings in childish faith, notwithstanding his solemn warnings that there would be no gifts, in desperation my father pondered what to do. Then when we were all in bed he went out in the night, woke up the owner of the general merchandise store, and bought on credit the oranges and nuts and candy and a five-cent package of fire-crackers for every child's stocking. A blessed memory it is of his love and devotion. But he need not have put so much stress on these outward things. Thank God, Christmas was there in our hearts. We knew the Christmas story, the song of the angels; and the story of the virgin mother and her Holy Child is as sweet in a bare cottage as in a palace. Oh, when will we learn that God has His very best for the poorest and weakest in the world!

So the angel of the Lord came to the shepherds that night and there told his wondrous story.

It is well for us to remember that our Saviour was born into a home of poverty. Joseph and Mary were undistinguished. Though both were of royal lineage, distantly, they had neither money nor standing that could gain them a room in the crowded inn. Mary must have been well content with a bed of straw. Her innocent Babe was wrapped in swaddling clothes, not in a beautifully stitched and expensive layette. If the Baby Jesus heard the ox munching hay, or saw the stable walls in the flickering light of a candle, or was pricked by the rough straw, He need not have been—and I am sure was not—surprised. For He had come into a world as the humblest and weakest. Later He was to say to a prospective disciple, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Matt. 8:20).

In this same second chapter of Luke we find how the Baby Jesus was presented in the Temple.

Mary brought a sacrifice, and offering, and she must needs be content to give the sacrifice which the very poorest people give, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." I say, Jesus was born into poverty.

He lived in obscurity in Nazareth, one of the least-known towns of Galilee, until He was thirty years old. His custom was to labor there in the carpenter shop.

Oh, blessed plan of God which provided a Saviour for the meek and lowly in heart, for those who labor and are heavy laden! He who is personified Wisdom was called by the Pharisees unlearned! He who is Creator, God Almighty, come in human form, was accused of being possessed of devils! He who had all the wealth of the world in His hands as the Creator and Sustainer of all things, died with only one seamless garment as His estate; died between two thieves and was buried in a borrowed grave!

No wonder that when Jesus told the parable of the great supper, that supper when the Father makes a wedding feast for His Son, to which all men are invited, He had the master say to his servant, "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind" (Luke 14:21).

No wonder we are told, "The common people heard him gladly" (Mark 12:37).

No wonder that publicans and harlots, fishermen and farmers, beggars and lepers, thronged about Him.

No wonder that a fallen girl could weep over His feet; or that a woman, twelve years with an issue of blood, could timidly reach down and touch the hem of His garment; or that the afflicted could challenge Him boldly, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean" (Matt. 8:2; Luke 5:12).

So when the angel came to tell of the Saviour's birth, he was sent to poor, unlearned and humble shepherds in a field watching their flocks.

Hear this, laboring people! Hear this, poor people, ignorant people,

little children! Jesus came to the meek and lowly in heart.

Are there rich people who would come to Jesus? Then they must be poor in spirit if they would see Him. Are there famous, learned, and important people who would come to Jesus and find a Saviour? Then they must humble themselves like a little child, for, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). Are there virtuous, moral people, well content with themselves for their righteousness, their church membership, their ceremonial rites, or their good deeds? Then they will never get to Jesus except they come like the poor publican, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). Jesus is meek and lowly in heart.

Let this Christmastime, then, be a happy time for all who are poor, or weak, or sinful, or in trouble, for the Saviour was born just for such as you, and the proof is this—that the angel of the Lord was sent to announce the birth to these same shepherds in the field watching their flocks by night!

II. The Angels

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God."—Luke 2:9; 13.

First, there was one particular angel, "the angel of the Lord." Perhaps it was the same Angel Gabriel who announced the conception to Mary, the same "angel of the Lord" who appeared to Joseph in a dream. Then the heavenly host appeared with him.

People who do not believe in angels can have no Christmas! The angel of the Lord was a miraculous being, a wonder-worker, bringing a message from God Himself. The Bible is a book of angels, because it is a book of the supernatural. No angels—no Saviour! No angels—no gospel! No angels—no Christianity! Those who do not believe in angels do not believe in the virgin birth, do not believe in the atoning blood, do not believe in the inspired Bible. And Christmas is not worth having without all these.

Modernists really have no Christmas, in the Bible sense. When you have Jesus born as only the son of Joseph and Mary, without any divine predictions; when you have Him live a life with no miracles and have Him die the death of a martyr but not risen bodily from the grave, not ascended up to Heaven, then you do not have Christianity! Christianity is a supernatural religion. Anybody who believes in Christ can believe that the angels came to announce His birth. Those who deny the angels deny the purity of the Lord's mother and make her a fallen Jewish girl and Jesus a bastard child. Those who do not believe in the angels make the Bible a human book, full of myths and legends and folklore and mistakes; a very good book, to be sure, but not nearly so good, the modernists and infidels think, as they themselves could write it! We had as well accept at the very beginning the fact that the birth of Christ is not worth celebrating unless we accept the implications of all the supernatural that attended His birth.

No, if Jesus is a Saviour at all, then all the miracles in connection with His birth, His life, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension are easily credible. I believe in the divine predictions of the coming Saviour's birth. I believe in His virgin conception and virgin birth, without a human father. I believe in His perfect life, His atoning, substitutionary death, His

resurrection from the grave. I believe He ascended to Heaven bodily, and is coming again the same way. Hence, praise the Lord, I believe in the angels! The angel of the Lord who announced those "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" is as historically credible as Christopher Columbus, or George Washington, or Abraham Lincoln. That heavenly host who appeared in the bright light, which was the glory of the Lord, is as real to me as the choir of three hundred voices who sang the "Hallelujah Chorus" in a great revival campaign in Buffalo, New York, some time ago.

Angels? Why, certainly there were angels when the Saviour was born.

In every household across the land and in every land where they really celebrate Christmas there is a sense of growing expectancy as Christmastime draws near. Weeks before Christmas my office force is helping me get names for a Christmas letter. I think; what shall I get for my wife? for Grace and Allan? Mary Lloyds, Chuck and their children? for Elizabeth and Walt? for Jessie Ruth? for Joanna? for Sarah Joy? or for my office workers? And months ahead of time I plan my preaching schedule so I can be home for Christmas. Once I did not get home until Christmas day, but the Christmas tree and all the presents were left intact until Daddy should arrive. I plan copy for the Christmas issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD a month ahead of time. Stores get out their decorations; Christmas stocks are bought months and months in advance. What a stir of preparation, I say, as Christmas draws nigh!

Can you imagine, then, how the angelic hosts prepared for the first Christmas? Before the world began, Christ Himself and the Father had planned for it. Centuries past, prophets had been inspired to write of it; Moses, Isaiah, David, all knew of His coming in advance; and Isaiah had promised that He should be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14). Micah had said He must be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). God had brought it about that some time before, the emperor at Rome had decreed that everybody should go back to his ancestral home to be registered for taxation. The emperor little dreamed that this was only a preparation for the first

(Continued on page 7)

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Clues Across

- 1 "Mercy ----- you, and peace, and love, be multiplied"
- 5 "Michael . . . durst not bring against ----- a railing accusation"
- 7 "How ----- they told you there should be mockers in the last time"
- 11 the time of day Saul saw the great light from heaven (Acts 22:6)
- 12 "keep those things which are written therein: for the time is ----- hand" Rev. 1
- 13 article of furniture used for sitting
- 14 "ungodly men, turning the ----- of our God into lasciviousness" a contest or conflict
- 17 "of some have compassion, making a difference: And ----- (s) save with fear"
- 18 "every vessel of wood shall be ----- (d) in water" Lev. 15
- 19 initials of two Old Testament, God-fearing women (Judg. 4:4; I Sam. 2:1)
- 20 a wooded hill
- 21 nickname for a sister
- 23 "to whom ----- reserved the blackness of darkness for ever"
- 25, 35, 53 "Now unto him that is ----- to ----- you from -----, and to present you faultless"
- 26 "when I gave all diligence ----- write unto you of the common salvation"
- 27 "in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great -----" II Pet. 3
- 29 "If we say that we have ----- sin, we deceive ourselves" I John 1
- 31 "He goeth after her straightway . . . Till a ----- strike through his liver" Prov. 7
- 32 initials of two idols for whom houses were built (II Kings 5:18; I Sam. 5:2)
- 33 "the eyes of the Lord run to and ----- throughout the whole earth" II Chron. 16
- 35 see 25 across
- 37 "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with -----"
- 39 "Enoch also, the seventh ----- Adam"
- 40 city where David ate the hallowed bread (I Sam. 21:1)
- 42 first and last letters of the father of Mishaal (Exod. 6:22)
- 43 soil with clay, sand, and organic matter in it
- 44 "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to ----- into the holiest" Heb. 10
- 46 "pass the ----- of your sojourning here in fear" I Pet. 1
- 48 "For we can ----- nothing against the truth, but for the truth" II Cor. 13
- 49 "for neither, if we -----, are we the better" I Cor. 8
- 51 "an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his on high" Hab. 2
- 53 see 25 across

- 54 "having their conscience seared with a ----- iron" I Tim. 4

Clues Down

- 1 "to convince all that are ----- among them of all their deeds"
- 2 "mount Zion, on the sides of the -----, the city of the great King" Ps. 48
- 3 the father of Eliel (I Chron. 6:34)
- 4 "ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was ----- delivered"
- 5 "-----; and he smelleth the battle afar off" Job 39
- 6 "----- was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you"
- 7 "because we ----- judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead" I Cor. 5
- 8 "Thou lovest righteousness, and ----- wickedness" Ps. 45
- 9 small town causing Israel's defeat (Josh. 7)
- 10 "----- whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead"
- 13 "ye should earnestly ----- for the faith which was once delivered"
- 15 father of Elmodam (Luke 3:28)
- 16 "And he said unto him, Take thy -----, and write fourscore" Luke 16
- 18 "But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best -----" Luke 15
- 20 "he that is ----- of spirit exalteth folly" Prov. 14
- 22 initials of the following: a prophet to Hezekiah (II Kings 20:1) a prophet to Asa (II Chron. 15:8)
- 23 "for we also forgive every one that is ----- (ed) to us" Luke 11
- 24 "though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much -----" Jer. 2
- 28 father of Shuppim and Huppim (I Chron. 7:12)
- 30 "when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the ----- salvation"
- 32 "He that ruleth over man must be just, ----- in the fear of God" II Sam. 23
- 33 same as 33 across
- 34 "And Achish said, Whither have ye made a ----- today?" I Sam. 27
- 35 "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once ----- this"
- 36 an age
- 38 "having saved the people ----- of the land of Egypt"
- 39 "hating even the garment spotted by the -----"
- 41 spoken aloud
- 45 a snake-like fish without scales
- 47 "it was needful for ----- to write unto you"
- 50 initials of Abraham's father and son (Gen. 11:31; 21:3)
- 52 "----- the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty"

Free!

for correct, prompt answers to
Puzzle Number 51

A Critique of the Theory of Evolution

By Dr. Charles George Bauer

One hundred years ago Charles Robert Darwin published his evolutionary hypothesis under the title, *The Origin of Species*. From that hour to this confusion has reigned, young people have lost their faith through exposure to this theory-taught-as-fact in grade school, high school, and college classes, and tens of thousands have ridiculed the Word of God because of its insistence of special creation by Almighty God.

But what are the facts? Did man come from monkeys? Is the Bible in error in matters of science and therefore unreliable and untrustworthy in other things including sin and salvation? Will the discovery of a few "missing links" settle the controversy?

This little twenty-four page booklet is not large enough to give all the answers, of course, but it contains enough "dynamite" to explode evolution. The author briefly shows the folly in each of the three principal evolutionary theories: Theistic Evolution, the Recapitulation Theory, and the Blood Precipitation Text.

Read this booklet yourself. Get it into the hands of young science students!

THE RULES

1. Fill in the empty blanks according to the clues given. Answers must be complete and correct.

2. PRINT (not write) your name and address in the blank below the puzzle. (Please include country in foreign addresses.) This coupon will serve as your address label for the envelope containing your prize. Mail to: PUZZLE EDITOR, THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois. If you do not wish to cut up your copy of the paper, you may print (not more than three inches wide) on a separate sheet of paper your name and address, and the answers according to the clue numbers given. If you print your answers on a separate sheet of paper, please put them in the same form as the puzzle rather than in columns. This makes them much easier to check and also reduces the possibility of mistakes. Entries will not be returned.

3. In order for you to receive this week's prize, *A Critique of the Theory of Evolution*, your entry must be postmarked by midnight, December 28, 1959. If your paper arrives after the deadline date, please place the date of arrival on your entry. The answer to Puzzle Number 51 will appear in the January 8 issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

4. Each person having a correct entry will receive a coupon along with the weekly prize. *Save these coupons!* They are important! At the end of the year (1959) those who have forty-eight coupons will receive a large type, clothbound Scofield Reference Bible. Those who have forty coupons will receive a copy of the book, *Man Sent From God*, which is a thrilling biography of Dr. John R. Rice. Please remember that the coupons which you have are the only record of your correct entries. It will be your responsibility to keep the coupons. In addition, note that coupons may not be exchanged with one another. The winning of a Bible is on an individual and not a group basis. Also, duplicate coupons will not count as two separate coupons. When you receive duplicate copies of the coupons and prizes, please return them. Please limit all correspondence to only necessary items, and ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR COMPLETE ADDRESS.

A Christmas Miracle

(Continued from page 5)

kitchen, a loud "Merry Christmas" reached his ears. He looked up and saw Elena, with the light of heaven itself shining in her eyes. "Hurry, Nicholas, packages have come from the evangelicals in America. Everyone is getting one!" Nicholas was off like the wind—his cramped, aching legs were forgotten in the anticipation of a package for his little Mariana. He was given—not one package—but, wonder of wonders, four.

Nicholas rushed into their little cave-home shouting, "Mariana! Mariana! See what I have, Christmas—four packages of Christmas for us from the lovers of God in America. Get up, Mariana, get up!"

Never did the stars in heaven shine brighter than did the eyes of Mariana as she gazed at the bundles in Nicholas' arms.

"See, Mariana, it says here, 'For girl, age ten, Greece.'"

"That's how old I am, Nicholas."

"So it is. It must be for you. It will be warm, clean clothes. My package says, 'For boy fourteen years old.' Isn't God good to us?"

"The other package will be something to eat, won't it, Nicholas? I'll like that better than clothes."

For the moment Nicholas had forgotten the Christmas miracle for which he had prayed so earnestly—the miracle of a piece of chocolate for Mariana on Christmas Day. As Mariana's trembling fingers unwrapped her package of food, he kept praying in his heart, "O God, help her to love Thee anyway, even if there isn't any chocolate in the bundle."

Suddenly Mariana let out a squeal of delight. "Look, Brother, look and see the miracle! It's the

biggest piece of chocolate I've ever seen—two times, no, three times as big as the American gave me!"

As Mariana ripped the paper off, a piece of white paper fell to the ground. It had Greek writing on it. Nicholas picked it up. "Someone tucked a little note inside the wrapper. It is a little poem, Sister. It says:

"Roses are red,
Violets are blue;
Jesus loves you,
And I do, too!"

Mariana's voice was very sober, as she said quietly, "God does see me. God does love me. Nicholas, I love God too. I want His Son Jesus to be born in my heart today."

Before Mariana took one bite of her longed-for chocolate, she and Nicholas bowed their heads to say, "Thank You, dear Jesus, Thank You."

As Mariana munched her American chocolate bar, Nicholas read once more the little poem which had been tucked away inside the wrapper:

"Roses are red,
Violets are blue;
Jesus loves you,
And I do, too."

"See, Mariana, at the bottom of this poem is the name of a little girl—the one who sent it—'Mary Lou, age 10, U.S.A.'"

"Mary Lou, age ten, U.S.A.," doesn't know, unless she reads this story, that a little girl far away in the land of Greece found Jesus as her Saviour one Christmas Day because she sent a chocolate bar with that Christian love note in it—a chocolate bar and note which fell into the hands of Mariana, "age 10, Greece."

—Aunt Theresa

(From CHRISTMAS STORIES . . . Published by Moody Press. Used by permission.)

... the Evangelists

(Continued from page 4)

ginia, where Rev. Bixler is pastor there were 16 professions of faith and 13 additions to the church in one week. At the Jobstown Baptist Church in New Jersey, where Rev. James Lowe is pastor, Evangelist Chenoweth reports 16 professions of faith, and 12 additions to the church in a one-week meeting. At the Lindenwald Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio, where Rev. Van Nortwick is pastor, in the one-week meeting there were 20 professions of faith and 15 additions to the church.

EVANGELIST LORAN DAWSON, JR., of Virginia, Illinois, held a two-week revival recently at the Modesto Baptist Church, Modesto, Illinois, with 9 souls saved and many rededications.

EVANGELIST B. M. PAGE of P. O. Box 3, Indianapolis 6, Indiana, held a revival at the Pleasant Valley Independent Church of Middletown, Indiana, with 28 first-time decisions, and 7 other decisions among Christians. Rev. Lloyd Dellinger is pastor of the church.

EVANGELIST JIM ANDERSON, Box 678, Wichita, Kansas, Song Leader Stanley Upchurch, had a blessed revival campaign in Blythedale and Eagleville, Kansas. Rev. Alan Dale, pastor of the North Harrison Christian Pastoral Unity, sends a fine recommendation of these noble, spiritual young men.

We are glad to commend these two young evangelists who may be addressed Box 678, Wichita, Kansas.

Answer to Puzzle No. 48

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Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 2)

gifts are deductible from taxable income. Address THE VOICE OF REVIVAL, Wheaton, Illinois.

Happy Christmas and God Bless You!

I wish that I could see every reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, could shake your hands, and could pray with you personally. I wish I could tell you how much I wish you happiness and blessing from God this coming Christmastime. My heart is moved with gratitude and love for all those who stand by us and read and pray and help.

I beg you, have a Christian Christmas. Don't tell any lies to your children at Christmastime. The story of the Baby born in a manger, of the shepherds, of the angels, of the wise men from the East is surely better than any false stories of a potbellied Santa Claus and reindeer. Let the world have the lies, but let us be Christians.

I hope that you will honor the Lord in your families, that you will read the Scriptures, that you will praise God, that you will sing Christmas carols. And I hope that you will honor God with the gifts that you give. Surely a Christian book or Bible, or a subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD will be far better than many worldly things you might give.

And perhaps God will put it in your heart to send a love offering for the Sword of the Lord or our broadcast or our Free Literature Fund or to send THE SWORD to ministers and missionaries through our subscription gift fund. May the Lord make it a happy, happy Christmas and God bless you.

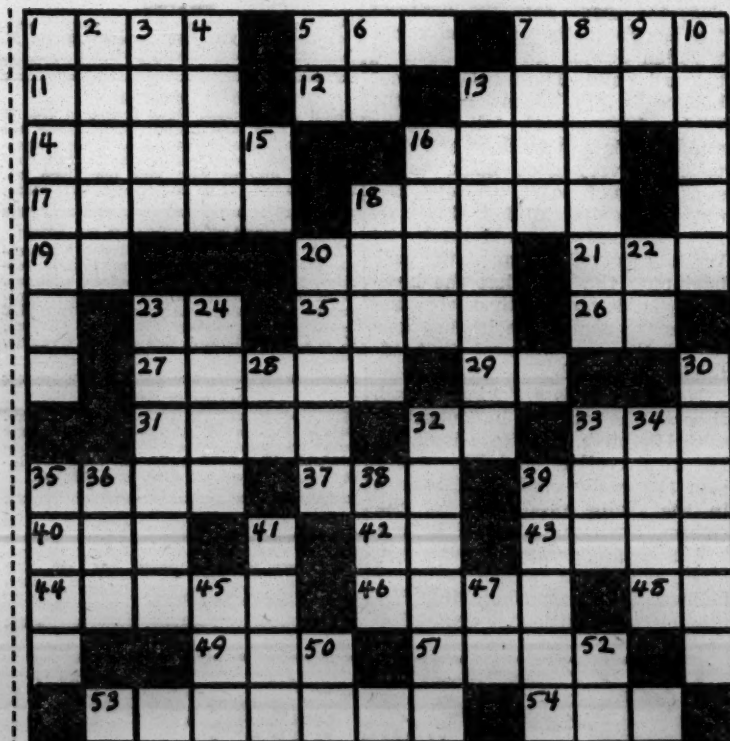
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The Shepherds' Christmas

(Continued from page 5)

Christmas; that God Himself would fulfill His promises and that the Saviour would be born in Bethlehem. I think the angels entered into his glad secret more joyfully than anybody ever helped to trim a Christmas tree, or made paper chains, or strung cranberries and popcorn, or wrapped packages, or cooked a turkey or fruit cake, or packed little stockings, or lighted the candles!

How the angels must have rejoiced as the day drew nigh. I think there was a holy competition among them. All the angels in Heaven must have gathered to watch, unseen, as Gabriel made himself known to that pure, sweet, virgin girl, Mary, and told her that she was to become the mother of the Saviour! Poor, troubled Joseph went about his duties with a troubled, sad heart. "Who would ever have thought it of Mary? Mary, the pure, the sweet, the innocent!—and now to have a child out of wedlock. How could it ever have come about that Mary should fall into sin!" So he must have mused when he found that Mary was to have a child. The angels knew the secret; and once when troubled Joseph lay in sleep God sent an angel to reveal to him, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:20, 21). How the angels rejoiced in that! I can imagine that every angel and cherubim in Heaven hugged themselves in joy. They could hardly keep the secret from the human race, the ones to whom they ministered—these frail human beings of whom the angels are the guardians and ministers!

Why, the angels must have been listening in with dear Simeon, that just and devout man, when "it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26). I think the heavenly hosts of angels gathered around to set the star on its journey, the star which was seen of the wise men in the East; and many angels, no doubt, encamped around about these wise men who feared God, and delivered them, on their journey to the place where the Saviour would be found.

An angel appeared to Zacharias and promised the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner, who was born six months before Jesus. Why, angels had to do with almost everything concerning the birth of the Saviour, it seems. It is no surprise, then, that the angel ministered to Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane; that angels stood by the open sepulchre or sat upon the stone which one had rolled away from the door. It is no surprise that when Jesus ascended into Heaven and the disciples gazed after Him with awe, "two men stood by them in white apparel [angels]; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10, 11).

Certainly angels had to be at the birth of Christ. It would have been a strange Christmas with no angels!

Could there be jealousy among the angels? I think not, among those sinless and lovely beings who are the ministers of the heirs of salvation; those who walk unashamed into the presence of a holy God. But it seems that every angel of God must have wanted to do something, to have some small part in announcing the birth of the Saviour. A good football coach, when his team has almost won a game safely, often sends in all the substitutes who have worked hard, so they can earn their letters; and everybody has a chance to try. Sunday School teachers, putting on a Children's Day program, try to find something that every child can do. So I think God made every angel of the universe happy by letting them join that heavenly host who shouted, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,

good will toward men!" So the glad event was announced. And I think that the angels went back about their duties happier for having announced to the shepherds that a Saviour had come than they would have been to direct a flaming comet across the sky, or to change the tides or seasons, or set a new sun in the universe!

All true believers—little children in whose heart faith comes so easily, and older and harder hearts who find the world too much with us, our ears too dim to hear, our eyes too nearsighted to see holy things—will be wise this Christmas if we listen ever so closely and see if we can hear again an angel speaking the message, "Unto you this day is born in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord!" It will be a sweet Christmas if we can hear faintly the angelic host proclaiming, "Glory to God in the highest," and announcing, "Peace on earth, good will toward men." Oh, may our poor human eyes this Christmastime see a little of the glory of the Lord shine round about us! What is a Christmas without angels and the glory of the Lord?

III. The Message

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."—Luke 2:10, 11, 14.

"Fear not," said the angel. The shepherds were "sore afraid," but they need not have been. Angels seem to love men with a holy love. They guard us, deliver us, report back to Heaven about us. They are intensely interested in all we do. This angel surely loved these shepherds and wished them

damnation—the natural and proper and righteous judgment on sin—if you will repent and be saved, for Jesus Himself will take your sins on Himself and pay for them all, and we can walk into the presence of God unashamed and unafraid, knowing our sins are forgiven, our hearts are made white, our record made clear!

Oh, fear is in millions of hearts today. I want to say to you, on the authority of this angel of God, "Fear not!" God can take away the fear. We have a Saviour who loved us enough to leave Heaven and its glory and live among men, and die a sinner's death and rise from the dead. And if God gave His Son, He will give anything else we need to those of us who trust Him. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32).

There are people who are never waked by a phone call in the middle of the night, are never handed a telegram, never called by long distance, but that a startled fear sweeps over their spirit. Fear is a terrible thing. Blessed be God, we have a Saviour who means an end to fear in those who trust Him. "Perfect love casteth out fear" (1 John 4:18).

"Tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." Good news for everybody!

Dear reader, I beg you to enjoy your part of the Christmas joy. I am not speaking of the pleasures some seek at Christmastime. I speak not of the senseless pleasures and the fleshly enjoyments of the dance, nor the excited flush that drink will bring to many at Christmastime. There is a better joy than that.

I am not speaking now even of those holy joys of the family and home and love, expressed in gifts and greetings. I hope everyone who reads these lines will have home and love and what comfort

thing about Christmas! Men do not really need soup and soap most. When they get a Saviour, the by-products only of the gospel will transform their lives. If you want to cure the evils of a slum district, get people converted. Soon they will be out of the slums, in better jobs. If you want to get people educated, then get them truly saved and lights will beckon them they never before knew existed, and ideals and ambitions will arise that grow naturally out of the gospel's fruit. It is silly to talk about doing much to help mankind until you get mankind to come to Jesus Christ.

Foolish America does not remember that nearly all of our great colleges and universities were founded by preachers, founded with Christian motives. Wesley's revival saved England from a French Revolution. D. L. Moody did more to change America from a half-civilized backwoods than all the presidents we have ever elected. What mankind needs is a Saviour—for the by-products of Christianity bring civilization. And, thank God, a Saviour is what we have in Jesus!

You may go and tell people that if they want to have a real Christmas they need to learn what it is to have forgiveness of sins, to have their poor souls saved, to make sure of a home in Heaven.

Dear sinner friends, you can never enjoy Christmas as I enjoy it and as millions of others do, until you can look up into the Father's face and tell Him that you have received His Christmas Gift, that you have the joy He promised by the angels that first Christmas night! It is silly, it is dishonest, it is wicked, it is tragic to try to celebrate Christmas without accepting Christ as Saviour.

Look in the show windows. Every store that puts up Christmas mottoes is but the business of a hypocrite if the owner himself does not know Jesus as Saviour. "Merry Christmas!" you cry, but not in any real sense can you know the merry heart of Christmas until you have the load of sin lifted off of it and know that you have a Saviour.

Christmas will mean disillusionment, disappointment, an aching head, money wasted and worse, for many a soul who has not let Jesus come in to be the joy of Christmas, to be what He came to be—a Saviour. How can you have Christmas without accepting God's Gift? How do you know what the Saviour spoke about when He gave these tidings of great joy, if you do not accept Christ as your own Saviour? The good news is for all people. It is for you. Make sure you appropriate it.

What Saviour is this that is promised? It is "Christ the Lord." The word "Christ" means the anointed one. Christ or Christos is the Greek form; Messiah is the Hebrew form. The angel simply meant to say that the promised Messiah of the Old Testament is the Saviour of the New. That Baby, Jesus, born in Bethlehem, laid in a manger, is the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. He is the virgin-born Son of Isaiah 7:14. He is the one whose "name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6). He is the great seed of David who will sit on David's throne, often foretold. He is the "anointed" of Psalm 2:2; the "Son" of Psalm 2:12. He is the Prophet whom Moses foretold in Deuteronomy 18:15. He is the Seed of Abraham, mentioned in Genesis 13:15, 16 and Genesis 17:6-8. This Baby Jesus is the Holy One David foresaw who should never see corruption in the grave (Psalm 16:10), but should rise again. He is the crucified One whose heart is revealed in Psalm 22. Jesus is the Christ of the Old Testament.

This angel there authenticated all the Old Testament as the Word of God, and if Jesus is not the one foretold to come, then He was no more than other men. If Christ stands as the Son of God, then the Bible stands as the Word of God.

"Christ the Lord" is the name of the Saviour. The word "Lord" attests His deity. It is a word which is used about God, but Christ was not ashamed to claim it, for He, too, is God, come in human form. He is the Son of the Almighty, but one of His names,

too, is "the mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6).

The Creator of the heavens and the earth has been born of a woman, has nursed at a mother's breast, has grown to manhood in perfection, has died an atoning death on the cross for man's sin! This is the Saviour who was announced by the angels that night in the fields outside Bethlehem. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

And my heart runs over with joy as I thank God that this Saviour is my Saviour.

"Unto you is born . . ." Unto me is born a Saviour. He is mine. One day I gave myself to Him and He gave Himself to me. My sins are forgiven. My soul is saved. He is my own Saviour, praise God! I pray that He is yours, too, dear reader. And if you have not taken Him as your Saviour, do it this moment. By simple faith reach out and claim Him.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men," chanted the heavenly hosts. Then Christ is the glory of the Father—Christ alone, of all who were ever born, perfectly fulfills the Father's will. And as He is the glory of the Father, so is He the hope of all mankind. There will never be any peace on earth except that which brings glory to God.

Peace is a wonderful gift. Do you have peace?

One November night in Dallas, Texas, I lay sick with the flu. The telephone rang, and when Mrs. Rice answered I heard her say, "I am sorry, but Mr. Rice is sick in bed with the flu. I am sure he would be glad to see you if it were not for that."

"What is it, Mother?" I called.

"Some people wanted to come and have you pray for them, but I told them you are sick in bed and could not get up to see them."

"Tell them if they will come back to my bedroom I will be glad to pray for them," I said. And I heard her tell the unknown inquirer, over the telephone, and I learned that they promised to come at once to my home.

They came. One was a man who, the second day before, had locked himself in a hotel room and turned on the gas at the unlighted room heater. His home was broken, his health was gone. It was in the heart of the depression, and he had nowhere to go, no job, no money, no food. So he decided to end it all. The woman who was with him was a hotel chambermaid who smelled the gas, unlocked the door, opened the windows, then called the ambulance and saved his life. The two had been drawn together by the incident. He had told the woman his sad life and she had told him of her life of shame. That Saturday night they walked the streets disconsolate, troubled. Both had come alike, it seemed, to the end of everything good and happy. Brokenly, he suggested, "We need somebody to pray for us. Let's go to the priest's house and ask him to pray for us."

So they went to the house of the priest and knocked at the door. It was late at night, but this distressed man said, "Father, we are in trouble and sin. We want you to pray for us."

I think the priest was not like many other gentlemen of his office; but he said to them sharply, "I dare say both of you have been drinking, and here you come to my door to disturb me at night when I have a mass at 6:00 in the morning! Get away from my door!"

They turned away, sadder than ever. But the girl thought of her mother and said, "I'll bet my mother's pastor would pray for us. He wouldn't talk to anybody that way. Let's go and ask Brother Rice to pray for us."

He refused, saying, "I have been run away from one man's house tonight. I won't go unless you first call and find out if he is willing to pray for us."

So they telephoned, and then when I asked them to come, they came to my home.

I often look into the faces of despair—of men in jail; of sot drunkards who come into the missions to get out of the cold and for a cup of coffee; girls who come to ask what they can do to avoid public shame after their sin; people with broken homes and broken

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Christmas Everywhere

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfield stand sunny and bright,
Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and gray,
Christmas where peace, like a dove in his flight,
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;
No palace too great, no cottage too small.

—Phillips Brook

well. He came to bring them good tidings; so he said to the frightened men, "Fear not."

When Zacharias saw the angel who came to announce to him, in the Temple, the coming birth of John the Baptist, "he was troubled and fear fell upon him"; but when the angel came to Joseph in a dream to announce the birth of Jesus, he said, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife." Even Mary, blessed, blessed Mary, most blessed among women, who had sought and found favor with God, "when she saw him [the angel], she was troubled at his saying." But again "The angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary." Angels are always having to tell men not to be afraid. What a pitiful commentary upon a sinning race of mankind, so alien to Heaven and heavenly beings, so far from God and hence so uneasy at the presence of any of God's messengers, that we are always afraid when angels appear! And what an example of the unfailing, benevolent loving-kindness of God, that always when angels come they speak to take away our fears, to comfort our hearts, to bring us good news. At least it was so about these angels who came to announce the birth of Christ.

Fear not, you shepherds in the fields outside Bethlehem! You need not be afraid of this angel, for he brings the best news ever brought to mankind. Fear not, you shepherds, for this angel brings such news as will make it so you will need never be afraid any more. You need not be afraid of death, for you can know that death will only usher you into the presence of God and an eternal joy. You need not be afraid of

loved ones bring at Christmastime. This is closer to my heart than most people can ever know, because I am a traveler, a stranger and wanderer on the face of the earth, gone out about the Lord's business most of the time, and returning only briefly to those I love the best. I say, I hope all of you have whatever proper joy comes from giving and receiving presents, from greetings and letters and from Mother's cooking, or that of your wife. I hope you hear the glad cries of little children as they empty their stockings and unwrap their presents. I hope you join in the Christmas carols and gaze at the lighted Christmas tree, and chat with the relatives you haven't seen for many long months. I want you to have these good joys. But God has better joy for you than that, my friend!

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour," said the angels, "a Saviour." That is the best news anybody ever heard!

I looked in the sad face of a man behind bars, a man condemned to die. He did not need a good teacher. He needed pardon, forgiveness, salvation. He needed a Saviour! Jesus is a teacher, but He is more than that. He is a physician, but He is more than that. No prophet or sage ever spoke like Jesus spoke. No life was ever as holy or pure. No example ever shined as bright across the path of youth. But oh, beloved readers, let us remember that Christ is nothing to us until He is first of all a Saviour! People who talk the foolish talk of a "social gospel," by which they mean labor unions, relief projects, and social security, do not really know any-

The Shepherds' Christmas

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hearts. But I think I never saw two sadder faces than those two who were led by my wife into my bedroom that November night in Dallas, Texas!

I sat up in bed and told them I was glad they had come, that God loved them, that I loved them, too. I told them if they would ask the Lord, He would forgive their sins and come into their hearts and show them how to have peace and joy again. They knelt down. They were unashamed of their tears. I had tears, too. I put my hands upon their heads and prayed. I think the angels stooped to listen as they sobbed in penitence over ruined and wasted lives, and as I prayed and wept over two sinners who, just as all of us do, needed mercy, though they did not deserve it. As they knelt there I told them how to trust the Saviour; how to trust Him for salvation now and for victory tomorrow. After a season they arose and sat beside the bed. There were many problems, many questions to be answered. I helped them the best I could with the Word of God.

After a bit that poor man, with shabby clothes, who came out of the night to ask me to pray for him, looked at me intently and said, "Preacher, this is the strangest thing I ever knew!"

"What is strange?" I asked.

"Why, day before yesterday I tried to kill myself. I didn't want to live. I had nothing to live for. We have walked up and down the streets all afternoon and this evening, trying to find what to do. I was never in such a turmoil and trouble of mind and heart in my life as I have been just today and yesterday. Now somehow, strangely, it is all gone! I am not worried, am not unhappy. I don't have an anxiety about a job or about what will happen to me tomorrow. I just feel the quietest peace in here," he said, as he tapped himself over his heart. "Isn't that strange?" he asked.

"That is not strange," I said. "I have seen the same thing happen to thousands of others. Peace is what Jesus gives. Nobody in the world can ever have true peace without coming to take Jesus as Saviour. He is our peace."

That blustery November night, that poor ruined man learned what the angels meant when they sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Oh, may the peace of Jesus this Christmas be with you who read this!

IV. The Experience

We have talked about the shepherds, the angels, the angels' message, and it would be a lovely story if the story ended there. But it does not. The shepherds did not have to leave the matter with a sweet message from Heaven but no practical results in their lives. Listen to the rest of the story.

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."—Luke 2:15-20.

First, these shepherds believed the story. They said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass." Blessed, thrice blessed, are they who believe the Word of God! Remember that Jesus Himself said later, after His resurrection, to the doubting disciples, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken" (Luke 24:25). These shepherds were ignorant, but they believed the words of the angel, the message sent from Heaven!

And in my heart, at this Christmas season, I praise the Lord for millions of common people who still believe all the story of the Babe who was born in Bethlehem, believe that the angels really appeared, that the Glory of God shone round about, that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, as the Scripture says. Other people may have believed after they went to see, but the shepherds believed before they went! Doubting Thomas missed the first appearance of Jesus after His resurrection, and would not believe the disciples. He said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). When Jesus appeared again and Thomas saw Him and was convinced, he said, "My Lord and my God." Hear, then, the answer of Jesus, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Sin is back of all the unbelief about the Lord Jesus Christ and the Bible and God's revelation about salvation. One reason the angels brought the message to these shepherds is that they knew the shepherds would believe it.

Second, these honest-hearted shepherds made an honest investigation. They really wanted to see the Lord Jesus who was born at Bethlehem and wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (Luke 2:16). Oh, this Christmastime, how blessed it would be if every unbeliever, every infidel, every agnostic and doubter, would only give God a chance to prove Himself!

The Baby was there! They had a chance to see for themselves that the angel's message was true! So did doubting Thomas, who said he would believe if he could see the nailprints and put his hand in the nailprints and in the wounded side of the Saviour. He really got a chance to prove to himself that Jesus was risen from the dead. So it was that Nathanael, who, not believing that any good thing could come out of Nazareth, finally obeyed the urging of his friend, Philip, and came to see. And Nathanael said, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel" (John 1:49). The Queen of Sheba did not believe all the wondrous things that were told about the divinely-given wisdom of Solomon. But her honest heart at least led her to come and see, and she learned that "the half was not told me!"

Here is a principle of God's loving mercy: always a hungry heart can find out the truth about God if he wants to. Always a doubting soul, who really wants to know, can find out whether the Bible is true, whether Christ is the Son of God, whether the Bible will work in a modern world. Remember that Jesus said in John 7:17: "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." A better translation would be, "If any man be willing to do his will, he shall know . . ." Those who really seek God with a willing heart will find Him.

That was the very same principle stated in Jeremiah 29:13, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

The same kind of promise is in Hosea 6:3, "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord."

Blessed promises these which show that any doubter, any distressed and darkened mind, any troubled but honestly-seeking heart can find the Saviour! Those shepherds went to see the Baby Jesus. How simple, how wise, how blessed that was!

Too many people sit out in the field in the darkened night and say, "I do not believe that any baby was born of a virgin in Bethlehem. I do not believe what the angels promised. I do not believe that Jesus is a Saviour. I do not believe that He brings good news, glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Well, as long as you sit out in the field and do not go to the manger to see for yourself, you only prove the stubbornness of your self-will and the sinfulness of your heart that does not want a Saviour. Those shepherds wanted a Saviour. They

were glad that Jesus was born. So they went, and straightway, and with glad, believing hearts; and all their expectations were met!

Why, that is the same way the wise men came from the East! They came in glad expectancy. They came with treasures all ready to give. They were willing to follow the Word of God, as far as it led, and then they rejoiced when they saw that the star backed up the Word of God. And how glad they were when they saw the Baby Jesus and opened up their treasures and gave Him gold and frankincense and myrrh!

Simeon in the Temple had no trouble believing that Christ was Messiah, the virgin-born Son of God. Anna, the prophetess who waited there, had no trouble believing it. Why, down through the centuries all the humble hearts who long for God, who want forgiveness, who confess their need of a Saviour, have found no trouble believing the story of the Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, laid in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Here is the heart of Christmas and the heart of Christianity itself! And all those who do not believe have only themselves to blame. God is ready to reveal Himself to all those who seek Him.

This Bible claims to be the Word of God. Yet I have faced infidels and so-called agnostics up and down the land and found they were ignorant of the Bible, though it is acknowledged as the greatest book of the world, the greatest book of history, of literature, of morals and humanities, even if it were not the inspired Word of God. But infidels hate the Bible, mock it, do not learn it, do not submit themselves to it.

What infidel or agnostic or boasted doubter ever spends any time in prayer, waiting on God to reveal Himself, confessing his sins, longing for forgiveness and cleansing and grace to do right? What man of all the boasted unbelievers really waits on God with a humble, contrite heart, longing for a Saviour, longing for the Truth, the Way, the Life, Light?

A young man with a little learning who had been reading extracts from Tom Paine and Bob Ingersoll in those infamous Little Blue Books (trashy things with paper covers selling for a nickel to the unlearned), once said to me: "I can't help it, can I, if I can't believe? I just have a scientific, investigating mind, and my reasoning does not account for God. Let those who can believe such things do so, but a man of my background and reasoning and investigation cannot."

However, I frankly told him that he had never made any honest investigation, never sought to find the truth about God and the Bible and Christ. I dared him, in the presence of his younger brother, to get down on his knees with me and confess to God that he was a sinner, by whatever standard he was measured, and ask that if there be a God, He make Himself known. I dared him to promise God Almighty, if there be a God, that he would honestly follow whatever light should come from God; that if the Bible proved itself the Word of God, he would obey it and love it and live by it; that if Christ proved to be the virgin-born Son of God, the only Saviour, that he would trust Him and surrender to Him as Saviour and Lord. And then I simply told the young man that I knew about God and the Bible; that I had proved it and so had his father and mother, so had millions of other saints, and that if he, this very day, were unwilling to get down before God and humble himself and seek to find God, I would know that he was a hypocrite, unwilling to face the truth and unwilling to find it. I had him there, and he knew it. Soon he was down with me on his knees, confessing that he was frail and weak and that he had fallen short even of his own standards of morals, and asking that if there be a God, He would reveal Himself to his heart; promising that he would honestly investigate the Bible and try to learn what God said, if it perchance be the Word of God. He didn't pray one minute before he was in tears, and soon he confessed that it was all true; the only trouble had been with him and not with God. God is willing to receive any seeking sinner and to reveal Himself to any honest

heart who is willing to go look in the manger and see if the Baby Jesus be there.

Oh, this Christmastime, wouldn't it be the best time in the world to turn away from this folly, this idle chatter of unbelief, and make an honest investigation and see if you can find the Baby Jesus there where the Bible says He is? Why not open the Bible and begin to seek whether God has a message to you, to see whether Jesus Christ does not prove Himself to be the Son of God? Why not kneel in your room before God and confess your failures, your sins, your shortcomings, and ask God to give you light, to show you what you ought to do? Ask God to reveal Himself! Why not face the sin question honestly (for nothing but sin ever keeps anybody from God) and confess your sins to yourself and to the Creator, wherever He be, however He may reveal Himself? Surely only a fool would say that there is no Creator. And if there be a Creator who made man, surely He cares what is in man's heart and will listen when man prays, if he pray with a humble and contrite heart, seeking the light, wanting to do right. This Christmas season, why not wait on the ministry of the Word, listen to the preaching of godly men?

Back of all infidelity is sin, defeat and self-will. I promise you that like the fog mists disappear when the sun rises hot and warm breezes blow, so your doubts will disappear as you wait before God, confessing your sin, reading the Bible, seeking light from Heaven. God reveals Himself to those who really seek Him with all their hearts. These humble shepherds went directly to Bethlehem, found the stable, and saw the Baby Jesus with their own eyes. They went away happy, and so may you, if you will honestly seek to know the truth this Christmas season. What a sin, what folly, and what eternal loss is yours, if you do not make Christmas your own this time by finding the Saviour for yourself!

The shepherds made haste; I hope you will do the same. This was the best news the shepherds had ever heard. It is the best news you have heard, too, and I hope you will accept it. When the prodigal son came to himself he said, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." And then, bless God, "he arose and came to his father!" Will you do the same today?

The last thing we will note about these shepherds is that they "returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." Oh, then, if you have found the Lord Jesus, and if you have a real Christmas in your heart, tell others about it. When a woman stooped down and touched the hem of His garment and was wonderfully healed, Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" and

made her stand forth and confess it (Luke 8:45-47). He wanted her to tell it. When that maniac of Gadara, that man whom no man could bind, who had lived in the tombs, who cut himself on the stones and lived without clothes, was wonderfully converted and healed, with demons cast out—when He sat at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, he wanted to follow Jesus everywhere He went; but Jesus said to him, "Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee." And then we are told that "he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him" (Luke 8:39).

Let us then, like the shepherds, give our glad witness to the joy we have found in Jesus, with our sins forgiven and our hearts made light. Let everyone this Christmas season who knows the peace on earth the angels told about, and who has received as his own the Saviour then announced, tell others today and share the good news. That is what I am trying to do in this sermon.

But one thing remains to be said, and that is this. Will you accept Jesus as your own Saviour this day? This holy Christmastime, with the impulses of the Bible story, of sweet Christmas carols, and of family influences, will you be saved today? Open your heart, confess your sin to Christ, trust Him to forgive you and save you now! If you will do so, first tell the Lord so right there, then write and tell me so. You may either copy the statement which I print here, and sign it, giving name and address, and date, or write me in your own words as you prefer. But I beg you, do it this very day! I will write you a personal letter of counsel and help and how glad I will be to do it. Be sure to tell your loved ones, too, if you take Jesus today. I mean this for unconverted sinners who will today accept Christ as Saviour.

My Decision For Christ

Date _____

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor,
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read your sermon on "The Shepherds' Christmas." I believe the Christmas story, that Jesus was born at Bethlehem to be our Saviour. I confess myself a poor lost sinner. I believe that He died for my sins and is willing to save me now. Here and now I turn my heart to Him, I confess my sin and guilt, I depend on Him to save me! With all my heart I surrender to Him now and trust Him. I am writing this as my confession that today I take Christ as my Saviour. By His help I will try to live for Him the rest of my days.

Signed _____

Address _____



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